Social security benefits to workers

766. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to provide social security benefits to workers in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is proposed to launch the scheme on an All-India basis or the scheme would be introduced only in selected districts of States'?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Government has taken several initiatives to provide social security to the workers in unorganised sector through legislative measures and schemes under the Welfare Funds constituted for some specific categories of unorganised sector workers like beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. The Government launched the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Scheme, 2004 on pilot basis in 50 districts of the country early this year. The benefits included health insurance, personal accident insurance cover and old age pension. The scheme was not found viable and therefore it is being re-worked. One of the reasons was that it lacked statutory backing. Therefore, the Government is working to enact 'Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2004' to provide for among other things social security measures having statutory backingjorthe unorganised sector workers in the country.

Indo-US joint project on elimination of child labour

767. SHRIMATI S. G INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to implement an Indo-US joint collaboration project for the elimination of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the project would be implemented in 20 identified districts of the country;

(d) if so, the detials thereof; and

(e) whetehr it is also a fact that the project would be extended to more districts on its successful implementation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India and the US Department of Labour (Indus) have launched a Child Labour Project as a follow up of the Joint Statement on "Enhanced Indo-US Cooperation on Eliminating Child Labour" signed between the Ministry of Labour & Employment and the US, Deptt. of Labour in August 2000. The project aims at ensuring elimination of child labour from identified hazardous industries, in identified districts through effective convergence with the Deptt. of Education. The US Deptt. of Labour would provide US $ 20 million to be matched, with equal funding from the Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proejct will be implemented in 21 districts in 5 States namely Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

(e) No, Sir.

Setting up of Employmnet Commission

†768. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having a proposal to set up Employment Commission to implement the employment scheme announced in the budget;

(b) if so, by when the said commission would be set up; and

(c) the number of persons likely to be provided employment under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has no proposal for setting up of an Employment Commission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.